

MANAGING GOD'S MONEY

I. GOD IS OUR MAKER, OUR MASTER, AND WE ARE HIS SERVANTS, HIS STEWARDS

Money is not to be our master, but God is to be our master, our Lord. We are to love God and not money, and we are to use our money for God and His purposes and glory.

Psalm 119:57, 72; Acts 19:17-20

II. SOME WAYS TO HELP YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE LOVING MONEY OR NOT

A. Do you think about money a lot? Do you worry about not having enough money? Do you spend a lot of time thinking about what your (God's) money can buy?

B. Look at your checkbook, and at your bank and credit card statements, for these things tell you how you are spending your money. And are you giving money to God's work?

C. God gives you money tests, tests with regards to your accounts and your possessions. Whether you are rich or poor, or in between, God will test you with respect to money.

III. USING YOUR EARTHLY MONEY FOR GOD RESULTS IN ETERNAL BLESSINGS

A. Managing God's money wisely results in eternal blessings in your life. You will get eternally paid, eternally rewarded in heaven for your earthly work. Your heavenly pay for earthly work is much better than your earthly pay for your earthly work. Colossians 3:24-25

B. It results in eternal blessings in the lives of others. You are to give to the church; and you can support missionaries, and other Christian workers and their work.

C. It results in eternal relationships, eternal friendships in heaven. Luke 16:9

D. Your earthly money is a tool to be used, not for self, but for God. God is your master and you are working for Him, and you are managing His money. Romans 6:14-19

IV. GOD'S FINAL AND SOBERING JUDGMENT ON THIS WORLD WITH REGARDS TO MONEY AND POSSESSIONS – Revelation 18

A. All the nations have been wrongly influenced by money, merchants and materialism. This chapter is talking about worldwide idolatry and immorality, a financial immorality.

B. The lesson for us, "*Come out of her my people so that you will not participate in her sins*" - verse 4, 1 John 2:15-17.

C. A description of the things being sold and bought in the world – verses 11-14

D. Many merchants, CEO's, other corporate executives, and many businessmen are becoming very rich – verses 11, 17, 23; James 5:1-6; Psalm 49

E. The nations, the people of the world are deceived by “*Babylon*”, which is symbolizing two things, religion and money – Revelation 17:1-6, 18:1-24

V. YOUR USE OF MONEY SHOWS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD

A. If God has your money, then God has your heart.

B. God wants you to learn to be a good manager of money, a smart spender of money, an excellent giver of money, and a wise planner with money. Proverbs 21:5

BOTH RICHES AND HONOR COME FROM YOU,
AND YOU RULE OVER ALL, AND IN YOUR HAND IS POWER AND MIGHT;
IT LIES IN YOUR HAND TO MAKE GREAT AND TO STRENGTHEN EVERYONE.
THEREFORE, OUR GOD, WE THANK YOU, AND PRAISE YOUR GLORIOUS NAME.
1 Chronicles 29:12-13

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe that God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Are you loving money? Do you think a lot about money? What do you spend your money on?
How do you respond when something you own gets lost, stolen, broken or wears out?
3. How are you doing at using God's money for God's work?
4. Take some time to think about how being a faithful steward results in eternal blessings in your life and in the lives of others.
5. Why is God's final judgment of the world so sobering when it comes to the things of this world?
6. Think about your own possessions? How valuable are they to you? Do you realize what will eventually happen to them, and to everything else in this world?
7. How can you be a wiser planner, a better budgeter, when it comes to money?